

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /085 W

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R 241906Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1611

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19275

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, FR, LE

SUBJECT: FRANCO-LEBANESE TECHNICAL MILITARY COOPERATION
AGREEMENT

1. ON JULY 24, EMBOFF ASKED QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR
THE ME SERVANT FOR COMMENT ON THE FRANCO-LEBANESE CON-
VENTION ON TECHNICAL MILITARY COOPERATION WHICH LE MONDE
OF JULY 19 REPORTED WAS SIGNED IN BEIRUT JULY 16.

SERVANT CONFIRMED SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT, SAYING IT
WAS BUT A RENEWAL OF AN EARLIER ACCORD PROVIDING FOR
TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO ARMIES. UPON
QUESTIONING, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHILE LEBANESE WERE
TRAINED IN FRANCE UNDER THE PREVIOUS ACCORD, NO FRENCH
TECHNICIANS WERE STATIONED IN LEBANON. THE LATEST
AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF FRENCH MILIT-
ARY TECHNICIANS TO LEBANON, HE SAID. SERVANT INDICATED
THAT THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF FRENCHMAN WHO WILL BE
ATTACHED TO THE LEBANESE MILITARY (GROUND AND TANK
FORCES) HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED. INITIALLY, ONE FRENCH
OFFICER WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE LEBANESE GENERAL STAFF

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WHERE HE WILL HELP TO ASCERTAIN THE NEEDS FOR FRENCH

TECHNICIANS DURING THE "PROSPECTING" PHASE, SERVANT
CONCLUDED.

2. COMMENT: SERVANT SEEMED RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THIS
MATTER AND ATTEMPTED TO DOWNPLAY THE IMPORTANCE AND
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AGREEMENT. THE FACT THAT THE
ACCORD OPENS THE POSSIBILITY FOR A STRAY ISRAELI BULLET
TO HIT A FRENCH SOLDIER IN LEBANON MAY EXPLAIN HIS
DISCOMFORT.
GAMMON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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